

Assembly Bill No. 268

CHAPTER 193

An act relating to parks and recreation.

[Approved by Governor July 27, 1999. Filed with
Secretary of State July 28, 1999.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 268, Cedillo. Museum of Chinese American History: Italian Hall: funding.

The Budget Act of 1998 appropriates funds to the Department of Parks and Recreation for local assistance grants.

This bill would make state funding for the permanent site for the Museum of Chinese American History and for the restoration of the Italian Hall, both in Los Angeles, contingent upon funding in the Budget Act of 1999.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares the following:

(a) The history of our nation and California is a rich and enduring tapestry woven with the threads of many remarkable lives, cultures, and events.

(b) The lives, work, and artistry of Chinese Americans have added strength, vitality, and purpose to that tapestry.

(c) Chinese Americans constitute one of the fastest growing populations in the nation, with the majority of Chinese Americans making their home in this state with large numbers in southern California.

(d) In order to educate the general public while preserving American history and culture from the unique perspective of the generations of Chinese Americans who have contributed to our national fabric, the Museum of Chinese American History was established.

(e) The Museum of Chinese American History was formed as a nonprofit organization in 1989 and the museum will officially open to the public at its permanent site in the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument in Los Angeles in the year 2000, the Sesquicentennial of California's statehood.

(f) The Museum of Chinese American History has already firmly established itself as a significant cultural educational resource for Chinese Americans and the multicultural communities in this state

and the nation, hosting numerous exhibitions and events and conducting research projects.

(g) Through the work of the museum, precious Chinese American traditions and folklore, moving oral histories, records of painful obstacles overcome, and hard fought successes are being preserved and safeguarded for all Americans and visitors to our country to study, admire, and treasure as they explore the pieces of our national character.

(h) The Museum of Chinese American History also serves as an educational and resource center for the exchange of ideas and experiences related to life in multiethnic and multicultural America and as a vital force in bridging communities and generations of different cultural backgrounds.

The Museum of Chinese American History and Friends of the Museum of Chinese American History are working in partnership with the City of Los Angeles and the private sector to secure funding in order to develop and maintain a permanent facility for the museum center.

SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Museum of Chinese American History shall not become a financial burden to the State of California, and therefore, that any maintenance or repair costs incurred by the museum shall be the responsibility of the Friends of the Museum of Chinese American History.

SEC. 3. State funding for the rehabilitation, development, and operations for the permanent site of the Museum of Chinese American History in Los Angeles is contingent upon funding provided in the Budget Act of 1999.

SEC. 4. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Italian Americans have played an important role in the social and economic development of California.

(b) The history of Italian Americans in Los Angeles can be traced back to 1823.

(c) The historic Italian Hall was built in 1907 and has served as the center of the Italian community for over a century.

(d) The Italian Hall has been vital in educating the public about Italian American history and preserving Italian culture.

(e) Through social gatherings and community events the Italian Hall has successfully educated the public about the contributions of Italians and preserved Italian culture and history for the public and generations to come.

(f) The Italian Hall is working in partnership with the City of Los Angeles and the private sector to secure funding for the restoration of the historic hall.



SEC. 5. Funding for a grant for the restoration of the Italian Hall in Los Angeles is contingent upon funding provided in the Budget Act of 1999.

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